

Patent

ANKLE REPLACEMENT SYSTEM

Related Applications

This application is a divisional of co-pending, ^{now} U.S. Patent No. 6,663,669, filed 20
U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/694,100 filed 20
5 October 2000 which claims the benefit of United States
Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/160,892,
filed October 22, 1999, and entitled "Ankle Replacement
Systems," which is incorporated herein by reference.

Background of the Invention

10 1. Field of the Invention

The invention relates to ankle replacement
systems including designs, methods and apparatus that
reduce and/or prevent problems associated with
subsidence, loosening, and late infection, in part, by
15 incorporating a novel surgical procedure for replacing an
ankle, at least in part, through a tibial tubercle
exposure. The present invention is also directed to novel
surgical instruments useful for performing an ankle
replacement procedure.

20 2. Description of the Background

Until the early to mid 1970's, patients with
injured or diseased ankle joints commonly resulting from
rheumatism, or degenerative or traumatic arthritis, had
few options when their ankle joints failed. The most
25 common procedure to help these patients regain some use